(b) the reasons for the difference between targets and achievements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The target and achievement in regard to public telephones in rural and urban areas during the last three years is as under:

Year	Target	Rural Achievement	Target	Urban Achievement
1996-97	75,000	56,719	125,000	65,709
1997-98	83,000	42,855	138,750	82,762
1998-99	45,000	37,058	125,000	92,740

(b) The reasons for shortfall are non-availability of equipment in time, inadequate infrastructure in rural areas like power supply, road communications etc., non-availability of reliable media and non-availability of spare capacity in some of the exchanges.

Telephone Lines in the Offices of Department of Telecommunications

1258. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of direct exchange telephone lines, treated as service lines working for officials and in the offices of the Department of Telecoms during 1996-97,1997-98,1998-J9 in the offices and at the residence of officials;

(b) what percentage do they constitute to the total number of direct exchange lines in the country; and

(c) the total metered units for these service lines during the above period separately and what proportion do they constitute to the total metered units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICASTIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Sir, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expansion Target of DoT

1259. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Telecom will have to borrow Rs. 4,000 crores in 2000-2001 to meet it expansion targets set for it under the Ninth Plan.

(b) whether this has been necessitated due to the sharp fall in DoT's revenue following the introduction of new tariffs structure by TRAI from May last year; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Available date indicate a downtrend in revenue receipts due to tariff reduction. Keeping this in view and taking into account other factors including approved Plan outlay, the Department has projected a borrowing component of Rs. 2152 crores in BE 2000-2001.

Breaking up of DoT

1260. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to break the state-monopoly in the information technology sector and to corporatise the DoT breaking it into live Telecom Corporations; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and being taken in that direction indicating reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) There is no state-monopoly in the information technology sector. It is also not proposed to corporatise the DoT by breaking it into five Telecom Corporations. However, in pursuance of the provisions of the New Telecom Policy 1999 to separate the policy and licensing functions from the service provision functions, as a precursor to corporatisation. the Department of Telecom Services, has been created on 15th October, 99 to handle the service provision functions.

Non Delivery of Money Orders

†126l. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint regarding any Money order sent through a Delhi post office that did not reach its destination during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi